

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejects claims 11-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112 first and second paragraphs. Claims 11-13 and 18 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 9 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,249,511 to Shumate et al (“Shumate”). Claims 9 and 14-17 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shumate. Claim 10 has been canceled.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,249,511 to Shumate et al (“Shumate”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,776 to Onken (“Onken”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,586,822 to Pastore (“Pastore”). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 2, which was objected to by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejects claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shumate in view of Onken and Pastore, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,586,486 to Nitschke et al (“Nitschke”). Since claims 6-8 depend from the now allowable claim 1, the rejection is moot.



Amendment to the Drawings:

The Examiner requests corrected drawings. Figure 3 has been amended to be Figures 3A-3C and formal drawings are submitted with this amendment.

Conclusion

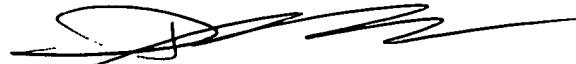
The Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1210 for any additional fees for the independent claims or any other reason. Applicants now believe that this amendment complies with the regulations and thus requests examination of this Amendment B. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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